

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**DATE:** October 19, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on October 12, 2007

**FROM:** Ralph H. Dollhopf, Acting Division Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** Mary A. Gade  
Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur  
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities and training/conferences:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Emergency Response, O'Brien Drain, River Rouge, Michigan**

On October 1, 2007, the Detroit Water and Sewer Department (DWSD) reported a combined sewer overflow from the DWSD Oakwood Pump Station into the O'Brien Drain a tributary of the Rouge River in association with a rain event. As a result of this discharge, oil that periodically collects in the wet well of the Pump Station was also released into the O'Brien Drain. A rail bridge operator observed oil on the water near the confluence of the O'Brien Drain and the Rouge River and reported it to the United States Coast Guard (USCG). On-Scene Coordinators James Justice and Brian Schlieger responded to the scene at the request of USCG on October 2, 2007. The USCG is the lead Federal Agency for the incident, although the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) was asked to provide assistance in identifying the source of the discharge. It is believed that the source of the spill has been identified, though the investigation is still ongoing.

Contacts: James Justice (734-692-7687)  
Brian Schlieger (734-692-7681)

**Mercury Release Response Assistance, Fairfield Union High School, Lancaster, Ohio**

On October 5, 2007, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) requested assistance with a mercury release at a combination junior high/high school building located a few miles from Lancaster, Ohio. The initial release was thought to be from a second floor stairwell that was spread by students to other unknown areas of the school. The suspicion is that mercury from a thermometer and barometer from the science laboratory may have been the source of the release. U.S. EPA mobilized the Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) contractor to assist with the screening of approximately 100 students on Friday afternoon and then the classrooms, shoes, and backpacks of all the students from the junior high and high school building. The assessment and cleaning went through the night and was finished around 1:30 am Saturday morning. The upstairs hallway was found to contain small beads of elemental mercury and was cleaned by contractors hired by the school, while START assessed the breathing zone and floor of the classrooms and the student's personal items. The rooms and hallways were allowed to vent until Monday morning. All cleanup activities are now complete.

Contact: Joe Fredle (440-250-1740)

**Removal Action Completion, Lincoln Illinois Mercury Spill Site, Lincoln, Illinois**

On October 4, 2007, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Stavros Emmanouil and the Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team contractor returned to the Lincoln Illinois Mercury site, Lincoln, Illinois, to dispose of the mercury contaminated waste. Fifteen 55-gallon drums were shipped for disposal. The site was demobilized and the cleanup is completed.

Contact: Stavros Emmanouil (312-886-1768)

**Removal Consent Order Signed (Huffer's Garage Property), Prestolite Battery Division Superfund Site, Vincennes, Indiana**

On October 12, 2007, the Region 5 Superfund Division signed an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) to perform a time critical removal at the Huffer's Garage property, which is located adjacent to the Prestolite Battery Division Superfund site in Vincennes, Indiana. Although high levels of lead in soils at the Huffer's Garage Property were identified during the 1991 Remedial

Investigation, they were not removed during the subsequent Prestolite remedial action due to concerns that the contamination may have been due to operations at the Huffer's garage property.

During the site five-year review, Region 5 determined that in order to assess remedy protectiveness, we would re-evaluate the possible sources of contamination on the property. Based on this reevaluation, the Region determined that Prestolite was the "predominant" source of lead at the Huffer's garage property. Further, the determination was made that an imminent and substantial threat to public health or welfare or the environment was posed by lead contaminated soils on this property. This removal action will remediate approximately 6750 tons of lead contaminated soil, which will be stabilized in place and then excavated and disposed of in a licensed landfill. The removal action will be performed by Honeywell, Inc., the potentially responsible party at the site. It is expected that the removal will begin the last week of October 2007.

Contact: Darryl Owens (312-886-7089)

#### **Outreach, Former Highland Park Hospital Site, Detroit, Michigan**

On September 29, 2007, Public Affairs Specialist Ginny Narsete visited residents of a Highland Park, Michigan, residential area to discuss the ongoing Former Highland Park Hospital site emergency response cleanup. This environmental justice residential area, with nearly 200 apartments, is adjacent to the ongoing cleanup and consists mostly of senior citizens and disabled residents. Ginny Narsete was requested by On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Brian Kelly. The site is a former powerhouse behind the Bella Vista Glen Apartments. The cleanup includes removal of sludge from the flooded basement, removal of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from a cement pad located outside of the building, removal of two tanks, and removal of asbestos from the first floor. The cleanup of the site should be completed in early November.

Contacts: Ginny Narsete (312-886-4359)

#### **RMP Inspections Conducted, Holland, Michigan**

On October 3, 2007, Monika Chrzaszcz from the Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section (CEPPS) conducted an inspection at the Boars Head Provisions Company plant in Holland, Michigan. The purpose of the inspection was to review the Risk Management Program (RMP) that the facility has in place for the

storage and handling of regulated substances under the RMP regulation. The facility processes and distributes deli meats.

On October 4, 2007, Monika Chrzaszcz (CEPPS) conducted an inspection at the Request Foods, Inc., plant in Holland, Michigan. The purpose of the inspection was to review the Risk Management Program (RMP) that the facility has in place for the storage and handling of regulated substances under the RMP regulation. The facility packages frozen entrees.

Contact: Monika Chrzaszcz (312-886-0181)

### **TRAINING/CONFERENCES**

#### **Quad Cities Sub-Area Planning Meeting, Rock Island, Illinois**

On October 3, 2007, the Quad Cities Sub Area Planning Committee met at the Rock Island County Emergency Services and Disaster Agency (ESDA), Rock Island, Illinois. Representatives from U.S. EPA Region 5, U.S. EPA Region 7, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Rock Island ESDA, and Scott County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) were present at the meeting. U.S. EPA Region 7 discussed bringing a fast water booming course to the sub-area for interested parties in the Fall of 2008. The training would be conducted by a member of the USCG Gulf Strike Team and U.S. EPA. U.S. EPA Region 7 has boats and boom that could be used during the training. The USCG Marine Safety Detachment Quad Cities (MSD) discussed the changes at the MSD and the desire to become more involved in the sub-area planning group. U.S. EPA Region 5 provided a brief overview of the Spill of National Significance 2007 (SONS 07) Exercise and discussed the experience with the Emergency Management Assistance Compact process during SONS 07. The FBI and Rock Island ESDA coordinator provided information on a Homeland Security Exercise which involved a dirty bomb scenario. After the meeting, a tour of different mobile command posts was done outside of the Rock Island ESDA location. U.S. EPA Region 5, U.S. EPA Region 7 Rock Island ESDA, and Scott County EMA brought their mobile command posts for the meeting. The next meeting will be next Spring.

Contact: Barbi Lee (312-886-5296)

**Conference, Sustainable Redevelopment in the Ohio River Valley, Louisville, Kentucky**

U.S. EPA Regions 4 and 5 collaborated with a broad range of partners, including the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR); U.S. EPA Region 3; the Cities of Louisville, Kentucky, Clarksville, Indiana, and New Albany, Indiana; the States of Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky; and the Universities of Illinois, Kentucky, Louisville, and Ball State to put on a conference on October 1-3, 2007, entitled Sustainable Development in the Ohio River Valley. The conference was attended by 190 people. Conference presentations covered a wide range of topics, including storm water management at brownfield sites, redevelopment in small towns, big cities, and urban corridors, air quality, climate change and urban heat islands, integrative design and green engineering, redeveloping to benefit disadvantaged communities, and a range of other subjects. A session on Brownfields and Public Health was hosted by ATSDR.

Three sites with environmental histories in the Greater Louisville area were the subject of charrette exercises, and provided the basis for the creation of redevelopment plans which maximize the long term benefits to the air, water, land, surrounding community, and public health. Students and faculty from four universities participated and will continue to work on sustainable design plans until the end of the semester, when their results will be communicated to the host communities.

Contacts: Jim Van der Kloot (312-353-3161)  
 Karen Bandhauer (404-562-9122)  
 Bob Newport (312-886-1513)  
 Chris Choi (312-353-5006)  
 Matt Robbins (404-562-8371)

**Emergency Response Outreach and ORSANCO Meeting, Marietta, Ohio**

During the week October 3, 2007, Public Affairs Specialist Ginny Narsete and On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Joseph Fredle attended the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) meeting. The discussions included Region 5 Field Environmental Decision Support (FIELDS) on Ohio River sampling. Ms. Narsete and Mr. Fredle gave a report on the Spill of National Significance 2007 (SONS 07) exercise held in June 2007. Ms. Narsete sent thank you letters to some 150 Public Information Officers from industry, State, local, and Federal agencies who participated in SONS 07 in

the Joint Information Centers (Mary Jane Adamo and Ann Whelan assisted). Additionally, Ms. Narsete met with Mayor Mike Mullen, Mayor of Marietta, and discussed emergency response and the upcoming Brownfields conference. Outreach then included a visit to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) offices.

Contact: Ginny Narsete (312-886-4359)

cc: Susan Bodine (OSWER)  
 Scott Sherman (OSWER)  
 Barry Breen (OSWER)  
 Ed Chu (OSWER)  
 David Lopez (OSRTI)  
 Ernie Watkins (OSRTI)  
 Susan Bromm (OECA)  
 Catherine McCabe (OECA)  
 Barnes Johnson (OSRTI)  
 Dana Tulis (OEM)  
 Elizabeth Southerland (OSRTI)  
 Larry Zaragoza (OSRTI)  
 Debbie Dietrich (OEM)  
 Dana Tulis (OEM)  
 Craig Beasley (OEM)  
 Jim Woolford (OSRTI)  
 Gail Cooper (FFRRO)  
 Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators  
 Division/Office Directors